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the eye, but so concealed by dense yellow pile that it cannot be measured satisfactorily; face very wide, with long yellow pile (mixed a little with black above on one specimen); structure of antenna, face and mouth-parts as given above in generic characters; the yellow pile of face continues below to the occiput, but there is a line of black hairs immediately behind the eye.

Thorax shining black, showing through the pile over the middle; scutellum with long and dense yellow pile, which forms a long fringe behind.

Abdomen thick, rounded, shining black or with a tinge of violet, with dense, erect black pile not as long as the thoracic; four distinct ring-like segments, the fifth and sixth together somewhat disklike, and bearing anteriorly the clasping organs, which are normally concealed well forward in the venter.

Legs black, of moderate stoutness, black-haired except the basal part of the femora; claws black, pulvilli dark brown.

Wings strongly infuscated along the veins, and especially in the region from the anterior crossvein to the costa. Length, 14 mm.; of wing, 12 mm.

Three males, collected by Mr. Wm. T. Davis on White-Face Mountain, in the Adirondacks, New York; July 6 and 10, 1914. The type and one paratype are returned to Mr. Davis, the other paratype remains in the collection of the describer.

Mr. Davis lived at the base of the mountain for some days, making almost daily ascents to the summit; he says, "Along the trail there were several open places where the sun shone warmly, and where we found many insects, and I think the botflies." From the general resemblance to some woolly Syrphids (*Criorhina verbosa*, *Eristalis flavipes*), the botflies were not recognized at first as important, hence the exact locality was not remembered.

The figures in the plate have been retouched to bring out the yellow pile, which showed but little in the print.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

***Silpha surinamensis* and *Creophilus villosus* as Predaceous Insects.**

—While at Wilmington in 1914, Mr. Ernest Shoemaker and I heard that a neighbor had killed a porcupine that had been found investigating an outhouse. We secured the animal and carried it to a nearby wood to serve as a bait for insects.

On the morning of July 11 we found many *Silpha surinamensis*, *Silpha americana* and *Creophilus villosus* about the remains. It was raining at the time. On the way home I visited the spot with

the object of procuring the skull of the porcupine and was surprised to find that within two hours many *Silpha lapponica* and some *Necrophorus tomentosus* and *Necrophorus orbicollis* had arrived. I was still more surprised to find many of the *Silpha surinamensis* engaged in extracting fly larvæ from the carcass and devouring them as rapidly as possible. *Creophilus villosus* was busy in the same way, but I did not observe that *Silpha americana* ate any of the larvæ.

The porcupine was visited again the next day, when *Silpha surinamensis* was found to be still busy catching fly larvæ, and I saw scores of them pulled from their hiding and devoured while still wriggling. *Creophilus villosus* was equally active and individuals of both species could be seen running about, each with a larva in its mandibles. They would often seek some quiet place to devour the tender grub. On one low plant I saw three *surinamensis* each one devouring a larva, but they usually did not climb on anything, but sought some retreat on the ground, while others were content to devour their captives while stationed on the remains of the porcupine and among the moving throng of their companions. It was difficult to say which was the more active in larvæ catching, *Silpha surinamensis* or *Creophilus villosus*. At one place I saw some *Silpha surinamensis* feeding on one of the legs of the porcupine, but the majority were undoubtedly in quest of fly larvæ. Thousands of the larvæ that were engaged in devouring the putrid porcupine were thus destroyed and their good work cut short.

It is known that the habits of the members of both of the families Silphidæ and Staphylinidæ are quite varied, and this note merely emphasizes the fact more strongly that these beetles are not as generally beneficial as some of the text books state.—Wm. T. Davis.

Dicerca obscura and Dicerca lurida.—During the past summer I took in Virginia on persimmon some fifty odd specimens of *Dicerca obscura* and at same time took on hickory numerous specimens of *D. lurida*. In life, the appearance of these two species is so different that they can be distinguished at a glance. In *obscura*, the ground color is blacker, the elevated portions more shiny, the pruinosity in the depressed portions whiter; in *lurida*, the ground color is coppery, the pruinosity grayer. When, however, a specimen has been pinned for a couple of months, these differences become less and

more difficult of appreciation and of definition. Although, as Casey has stated, the species are abundantly distinct, *lurida* is given as a variety of *obscura*. In looking over recently two collections in which the two species were hopelessly confused, I have struck what I believe to be the clue to the matter. The usual analytical tables separate the species by the character "thorax widened from base, *obscura*," etc. While this character is true of *obscura*, in a large series of *lurida* many will be found to which it also applies and it is just these *luridas* with intergrading thorax which are wrongfully identified as *obscura* and which cause true *lurida* to be regarded as a variety.

I have found, however, other characters by which the species may be separated and venture to give these in the following table in order of their importance.

- A (a) Hind coxal plate notched at insertion of femur and with distinct tooth on outer side of notch.
- (b) Lateral margin of thorax viewed from beneath and sidewise presenting a polished carina for at least one-half of length from base.
- (c) Food plant persimmon *obscura*.
- AA (a) Hind coxal plate not or very feebly notched and with no tooth.
- (b) Lateral margin of thorax viewed from beneath and sidewise presenting merely a trace of polished carina, not over one-fifth of length from base.
- (c) Food plant hickory *lurida*.

In separating the closely allied species of *Dicerca*, I believe more attention should be paid to the food plants. In Virginia, the species of the *divaricata* group which feeds on sugar maple is markedly different from the species which feeds on peach.

I have found difficulty in separating by analytical tables *Chalco-phora liberta* and its allies from *Ch. fortis*. In the small series in my collection, I note that the prosternal spine in *liberta* and its allies has two longitudinal parallel sulci, while in *fortis* there is but one sulcus. If this holds for a larger series, it would serve to separate the two without having to depend upon the ratio of length to breadth of elytra, a character not easy to determine with certainty.—Wirt Robinson.

A Small Collection of Odonata from Atlin, British Columbia.—Mr. E. M. Anderson, of the Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C., has

sent me recently a small collection of dragonflies taken by himself at Atlin, B. C., near the northern boundary of the Province and about a hundred miles inland. I record them here merely because of the locality and because two of the species are new to British Columbia.

Enallagma calverti Morse. Taken at hot springs at Atlin, both sexes. Widely distributed over boreal America and previously recorded from southern B. C. by Currie ('05) and Osburn ('05) and from Alaska by Currie ('01).

Enallagma cyathigerum (Charpentier). Taken at hot springs of Atlin, both sexes. Holarctic. Previously recorded from southern B. C. by Currie ('05) and by Osburn ('05) and from Alaska by Currie ('01) as *E. annexum*.

Aeshna eremita Scudder. Taken at Atlin, one female. Hudsonian and Canadian. Previously recorded from southern B. C. and from Alaska by Walker ('12).

Aeshna sitchensis Hagen. Taken at Atlin, new to B. C., one female. Hudsonian and Canadian. Recorded from Alaska by Hagen ('61).

Somatochlora hudsonica (Hagen). Taken at Atlin, new to B. C., and not hitherto known west of the Hudson's Bay region. One male.

Leucorhinia hudsonica (Selys). Taken at Atlin, both sexes. Boreal. Previously recorded from southern B. C. by Currie ('05) and Osburn ('05) and from Alaska Currie ('01).

Leucorhinia proxima Calvert. Taken at Atlin, males only. Boreal. Previously recorded from southern B. C. by Currie ('05).

It will be seen from the general distribution, which I have given for the purpose of comparison, that all these species, except perhaps *S. hudsonica*, should be expected from Atlin. The westward range of *S. hudsonica* is considerably extended by this record.—Raymond C. Osburn.

Some of the Insects of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland.—A little to the southward of the bathing resort of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, there are some high bluffs of clay which the waves are ever undermining, with the result that large masses fall and lie in the water at

the base of the perpendicular cliffs. On June 24, 1914, I found several specimens of the sea going bug *Halobates micans* Esch. (*wuellerstorffi* Frauenfeld) swimming about among these masses of clay, but was more surprised to find the beetles *Dineutes hornii* Roberts and *Gyrinus* sp. The water is salt enough to be the home of many sea shells and crabs, so the beetles were not expected.

At the base of the cliffs, where there is a narrow beach of several feet, *Bembidium laevigatum* Say was found in some numbers, and in one place where there is a short sandy beach between two of the bluffs, Mr. Ernest Shoemaker and I collected the tiger beetles *Cicindela puritana*, *C. marginata*, *C. hirticollis*, *C. repanda*, and on the extreme upbeach *C. punctulata*. The specimens of *hirticollis* are remarkable on account of their broad white markings, as broad as in many specimens of *generosa*. On the moist ground of the more gentle sloping sides of some of the banks were grouse-locusts, *Paratettix cucullatus* Burm. and *Tettigidea lateralis* Say; also a number of toad-bugs, *Gelastocoris oculatus* Fabr. A trip to Chesapeake Beach, made in June, 1911, was commented upon in this Journal for March, 1912.—Wm. T. Davis.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 1915.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held February 16, 1915, at 8:15 P.M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Dr. Raymond C. Osburn in the chair, with 16 members, and two visitors present.

The curator reported the addition of a paratype of *Papaipema humuli* to the local collection, by gift of Mr. Henry Bird.

Mr. Davis recommended the publication by the society of a Check List of Hemiptera, written by E. P. Van Duzee, and presented for publication by him through Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson. Mr. Davis offered to advance the cost of the printing, the amount to be repaid without interest as funds accrued from the sales until the entire amount advanced had been repaid; the proceeds of sales thereafter to belong to the society.

Mr. Barber, Mr. Schaeffer, Dr. Lutz and Dr. Osburn spoke in favor of the project and on motion by Dr. Lutz, the offer of Mr. Davis was accepted and the work accepted for publication.